

REMARKS

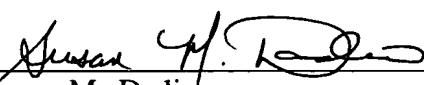
Entry of the foregoing and favorable consideration of the subject application, in light of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendment, the claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies and to place such claims in standard U.S. form. New claims 16-20 contain the subject matter canceled from claims 5, 7, 10, 12 and 15. No new matter has been added by the foregoing amendment.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Preliminary Amendment, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 
Susan M. Dadio
Registration No. 40,373

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: July 25, 2000